

PRISONER ATTACKS WITNESS IN COURT

Pteriotis Convicted With
Bronzos in International
Forgery Plot.

LEAPS UPON DETECTIVE

Two Deputies Overpower
Young Greek, Who Faces
Long Prison Term.

Leaping from his seat in the United States District Court before Judge Frank D. Dietrich yesterday, after a jury had found him guilty on fourteen counts in an indictment charging him with being the head of an international forgery scheme, George D. Pteriotis attacked James M. Weltman, former secret service agent, who had testified against him. He struck the former Federal agent a hard blow on the chest, knocking him into a vacant chair. He followed up his attack with several short jabs and was preparing to strike Weltman again when court attendants intervened. Pteriotis, who is 26 years old and of athletic build, attempted to reach Weltman despite the interference of the court

attendants, and it was necessary for Deputy Marshals Dempsey and Whalen to throw him to the floor before overpowering him. He was then handcuffed and later removed to the Tombs under a special guard.

Pteriotis and his partner, George Bronzos, of 23 Clinton street, Brooklyn, and Anthony Dritsas, said to be a Columbia student, have been on trial before Judge Dietrich since January 6. The case was closed Friday and yesterday morning the court charged the jury. It took five hours of deliberation before a verdict was reached, convicting the two former Greeks and acquitting Dritsas. John V. Sakelopoulos, who was indicted with the others, was discharged by direction of Judge Dietrich for lack of evidence.

The defendants, according to the indictment, had altered and forged bills of lading for various shipments of rice, coffee and sugar to Greece. One specific charge was the altering of a bill of lading for two bags of rice on May 24, 1920, to 2,200 bags. The defendants are said to have obtained more than \$250,000, and Assistant United States Attorneys Ben A. Mathews and Henry D. Kelly, who prosecuted the case, declared that at the time Pteriotis and Bronzos were arrested they were planning to clean up a million dollars.

The maximum sentence for each count is five years, making a total of seventy years for the fourteen counts.

The arrest of Pteriotis, which was made by Department of Justice officials after a three months' search, occurred on September 10, when he arrived from London, after, it is said, he had visited Greece on business. The American Company of Commerce, incorporated in October, 1919, with offices at 79 Wall street, figured in the indictment. Pteriotis was president of this company and Bronzos secretary.

The two prisoners will be taken before Judge Dietrich Tuesday morning for sentencing.

KID BROAD IN HUNT FOR FILM DIRECTOR

Ex-Prizefighter Holds \$15 a
Day Contract in Capt.
Stoll's Concern.

INSTRUMENT LACKS DATE

Work Continues on Big Pic-
ture as Stockholders Try
to Buoy Hopes.

The mystery of the whereabouts of Capt. Frederick P. Stoll, president and organizer of the United States Photoplay Corporation of 227 West Forty-fifth street, remained unsolved last night.

The firm promises a statement tomorrow of the action taken at a special meeting of directors late last night on the disappearance of Capt. Stoll, who is reported to have left this city on December 14.

From one source of a reliable nature it is learned that Capt. Stoll might have left here to avoid a process server in the suit brought against him by Harry McRae Webster, a movie director, and Richard C. Travis, an actor, who were discharged some weeks ago by the missing man. They are suing for money

alleged to be due them under contracts signed by Stoll.

For a year Capt. Stoll has been working on the preparation of a film as the head of the United States Photoplay Corporation at a rented studio in Grantwood, N. J.

Dr. George L. Carder of Cumberland, Md., has taken charge of a partly finished film, which has been in preparation for six months. At the firm's office it was said the photoplay would be produced regardless of Capt. Stoll's absence.

Clifford L. Wakeman, secretary of the company, said yesterday that he did not know where Capt. Stoll could be located, but promised to clean up the mystery by the issuance of a statement tomorrow. In the meantime hundreds of stockholders in the United States Photoplay Corporation are sitting tight, hoping that the photoplay will prove a hit. For a year stock in the concern has been selling at \$5 a share.

When a reporter for The New York Herald was waiting to interview Mr. Wakeman in Capt. Stoll's old headquarters, Kid Broad, the former lightweight prize fighter, entered the place.

"Say, Mr. Broad, what is your address?" asked Mr. Wakeman as the Kid stood admiring his likeness. The ex-prize fighter is considered an excellent underworld character in the films on account of his bruised face and head.

"What you want to know my address for?" snapped the Kid.

"We want that \$25 advanced you on that contract," quickly replied Mr. Wakeman.

"You will have to use a bunch of determination stuff on me to get that dough back," said the Kid. "Look here, I spent \$125 advertising myself as part of that film you're putting on."

Outside of the office Broad told the reporter that he had been engaged by the concern at \$15 a day, and he had signed a contract for two years, only to find that it was not dated.

CANFIELD'S PLACE WRECKED BY FIRE

Firemen Batter Down the Fa-
mous Impregnable Door of
Gambling House.

The bronze and mahogany door which made Richard Canfield's old gambling house at 5 East Forty-fourth street, next door to Delmonico's, impregnable to the police and which barred even the impetuous Jerome, was hammered off its hinges early yesterday morning by firemen. Deputy Chief George Ross and his men managed to smash their way into the famous building in time to save stockholder in the production.

Not only Canfield's itself but Delmonico's as well, but it was a close thing.

Smoke drifting through an open window of Delmonico's ballroom just before 5 A. M. caused as much excitement among the dancers attending the annual party of the Society of American Illustrators as if somebody had been discovered with something on the hip. "The Japanese Sandman," which had been riding a hundred late staying couples around the floor, dwindled and died and there was an exodus, most of the merry-makers fearing that the fire was in Delmonico's.

The artists and their guests were in time, therefore, to see the spirited arrival of Hook and Ladder 4, closely followed by Deputy Chief Ross's little red motor car with the big brass bell. Ross

knew something about the house and the door because it is the business of good firemen to acquaint themselves with such matters. He satisfied himself after half a minute's inspection that gentle measures would never win access to Canfield's and that it was a case for rough work.

The door, which is of solid mahogany, reinforced and studded with bronze, is two and a half inches thick. It would have taken an hour's chopping with axes to have made any impression, but with the house emitting smoke from every chink and the crackle of the flames within plainly audible there was not even a minute to waste.

Ross combed the immediate neighborhood until he found a heavy length of timber that was being used on a contracting job. Rushing the big stick up to the door, Ross attached six of his strong lads to it, three on a side, got them swinging lustily and in concert, gave the word, and crash! the timber hit the Canfield portal. A few more solid smashes with the battering ram and the door gave way. It is uninjured except for lock and hinges.

Plunging into the smoke, the firemen found themselves in a few steps up against another door, the inner entrance of the large marble vestibule. Breaking that door down was relatively short work, and then Ross and his men went to work in earnest. They saw at once that the fire had originated in the basement and that it had mushroomed upward through the house.

The reception room, where Canfield used to display some of his finest paintings and which he furnished elaborately, was already blazing, the mahogany ceiling and the gilded panels burning in patches. On the floor above there was even more fire, and the room where roulette wheels used to spin and where men lost \$200,000 in a night's play was lurid with fire. The whole house by that time was like a furnace, and Ross's main problem was

how to confine the fire to Canfield's itself.

The fire spread to No. 7, next door, through the big pipes of the heating plant, one plant serving both houses, and for half an hour the firemen had to hustle to save the adjoining building. Eventually they won out and damped the fire from both interiors, leaving Canfield's a sudden wreck inside. The dam-

age was estimated at perhaps \$50,000, while the house post door was injured to the extent possibly of \$10,000. For the time being Canfield's was unoccupied. Charles E. Brickley & Co. were having the house renovated for use as a brokerage office. Mr. Brickley, the famous Charles Brickley, who was Harvard's football a few years ago, had placed some furniture in the house.

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D775 Mahogany Suite,	894.00	447.00	D842 Walnut Suite,	851.00	425.50
D763 Mahogany Suite,	1185.00	592.50	D760 Mahogany Suite,	1341.00	670.50
D826 Mahogany Suite,	987.00	493.50	D773 Mahogany Suite,	1194.00	597.00
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